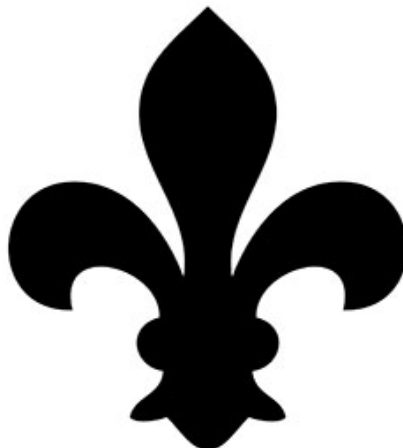


# Tuning Up!

A Newsletter of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild.  
Volume 55, No. 4. [www.rcmtg.org](http://www.rcmtg.org). PO Box 283, New City, NY 10956



About our Speaker: Martha Mooke



# Tuning Up!

A Newsletter of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild. Volume  
55, No. 4. [www.rcmtg.org](http://www.rcmtg.org). PO Box 283, New City, NY 10956

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"At Thanksgiving week we collectively embark on the holiday season with all the "trimmings". For me, it begins with cancelling nearly an entire week of teaching at Thanksgiving, and then another week or two at the end of the year. I enjoy the time off, as do my students, but for many teachers it comes at a time of year when there's a lot of cash going out. Students and their parents take vacations. Schools close for the holidays. Plus, everyone in our extended families is expecting a gift. That's a lot of trimming. I know that not all private teachers greet this with a hearty "Ho, Ho, Ho." We all do know to expect it and we try to plan out our year so that we make up the missed time later. To add to the worries, snow season looms just ahead with more missed lessons.

Not to get too dark here...but all of this is a big reminder to connect with the warmth and support of each other's company. We're lucky to be part of this wonderful organization, RCMTG, which is trying in many ways to provide fellowship and opportunities for growth. Let us know you better in the coming year - come to a program, join us at the potluck supper in January, send in a letter to the editor of the newsletter, share your work through students participating in Marathon or Auditions, volunteer to help. It takes time to get to know each other, but I know for a fact that many wonderful friendships have been made through this organization. We're not going to provide a solution to your issues with seasonal trimming, but what we do have is our shared love and dedication to music. That's not tinsel, it's gold, and it enriches us all and the RCMTG. Hoping you have a lovely, restful holiday season.

**Tedo Wyman**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Grace Music Messiah Sing

Sunday, December 6 at 4 PM  
Grace Church, Nyack, NY

### Music Marathon 2015

Saturday and Sunday  
December 5th and 6th. 10AM-5PM  
Contact Marie Cowen at  
[cowenmusicstudio@gmail.com](mailto:cowenmusicstudio@gmail.com)

### Organist/Music Director

needed for the Parish of  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Fr. Stephen Hagerty  
email : [rev.stephen.hagerty@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stephen.hagerty@gmail.com)  
telephone: 845 735 8888  
mornings and afternoons

### Concerto Competition



### Instrument Categories

Strings - Winds - Piano

### Age Categories

Up to Age 23

### Deadline for applications and videos:

February 1st, 2016

The first prize winner will perform with the Adelphi Orchestra during the 2016-17 Season Finalists Recital: 4/9/2016 Dimenna Center for Classical Music.

Competition Rules & Application Forms at:  
[www.aconj.org](http://www.aconj.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December 2 (Wednesday at 10 a.m.)

Rockland Conservatory of Music "Am I Allowed To Do That" with Martha Mooke

### December 5/6 (Sat and Sun. -all day)

Annual Marathon at Palisades Center beginning at 10.30am until 5:30pm - to benefit "Helping Hands of Rockland"

### January 23 (Saturday at 6 pm)

Jamboree Pot Luck Dinner at the home of Rosemary and Adrian Waltzer, New City

### March 2 (Wednesday 10 a.m.)

Rockland Conservatory of Music "Round Table on Pedagogy" ... members participate

### April 6 (Wednesday at 10 a.m.)

Vocal Program in preparation (details in next newsletter)

### May 1 (Sunday)

All Day RCMTG Auditions at the Rockland Conservatory of Music

# Tuning Up!

A Newsletter of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild. Volume  
55, No. 4. [www.rcmtg.org](http://www.rcmtg.org). PO Box 283, New City, NY 10956

---

## IMPROMPTUS

Your page for comments and discussion. Please share with us items of interest that you have found inspirational, educational and fascinating.--. Send submissions to [Rhoda.Forte@verizon.net](mailto:Rhoda.Forte@verizon.net)  
Lisa Yui Interview continues:

Can you remember an instance in which a student taught you something very important about teaching through the act of teaching that student?

LY: I had a student learning the first movement of the Beethoven Opus 10, No. 1 sonata, and though he played very passionately, very few markings were being observed. After pointing out several of these on the first two lines - the rests, the subito pianos, the rinforzando - without really explaining the musical purpose of these markings, my student exclaimed "How can I play if I have to look at all these markings?" That taught me that one should always accompany directions with explanations of their artistic purpose. I have made mistakes in trying to fit too much into a lesson, and it leaves the student feeling very discouraged by the end, which can be extremely harmful. No matter what level students are at, by the end of the lesson they need to feel that they accomplished something. It's more important to them to feel they have accomplished even one little thing than it is for you to have passed on a lot of information.

Remembering Stephen Covello: by Susie Covello

Stephen Covello, Jr. died of Alzheimer's Disease at the age of 90, in the Veterans' Home in Paramus, N.J. on April 21, 2015.

Steve started college to become a member of his family's electrical contracting business. He also played saxophone and had his own band. When he told his mother that he was going to transfer to the music department, she cried. She was sure he would have to struggle to support himself.

As it turned out, Steve taught dozens of students over the years, played in bands on weekends, wrote a number of piano method books, wrote classical music, taught at Chautauqua during the summers, and had a small Rockland County classical orchestra.

He married Susie, and was father to Steve, 3rd- a teacher at Granite State College in New Hampshire and Julie-a professional disc jockey.

The Alzheimer's Disease slowly caught up with Steve in recent years. It was heartbreaking to see this disease slowly destroy such a creative person. Our only consolation was that he didn't seem fully aware of the changes taking place. At a certain point Steve seemed willing to move to the Veteran's home in Paramus where he seemed content with his companions and the care he was given.

Susie Covello

*The Roving Reporter will return next month*